

the Roman Catholic faith of the French-Canadian. We have seen how segregation is promoted in general by the Roman Church to keep the faithful within the fold. But nowhere is this pernicious policy more practiced than in Quebec. It is applied in separate schools, clubs, unions, and many other ways, but most of all in keeping the French language as the means of communication of the French-Canadian. The hierarchy's plan is to have the habitant know French only and thus cut him off from contact with Protestant Canadians. And that is why the Ottawa government, against all sense and fairness, has a chain of French-Speaking radio stations throughout the West !The hope is that the migrating French-Canadian in the west will still be encouraged to use only the French language and thus be kept close to his priest and church.

Le Droit, the French paper of Ottawa, explains this function of the use of the French language in this way:

"The attachment to the French language which is natural to us and for which nobody can reproach us, is also a means of protecting our (Roman) Catholic faith, the most precious of our treasures. If it is not dogmatic to assert that language is the guardian of faith, he would have to be blind who would not recognize that the French language has been in the world a vehicle of (Roman) Catholicism, and that this language is today, as it was yesterday, a natural barrier against an assimilation which almost always leads to apostasy. Indeed, has not every French-Canadian conquest been, and is it not still, a (Roman) Catholic conquest."

The plain statement must prompt the English-speaking Canadian to ask why he should be expected to learn French in order to further the plan of the Quebec hierarchy to safeguard the Roman Catholic faith of the

French-Canadian. This, we believe, is the chief force behind bilingualism in Canada, and it is one of the most shameful aspects of Canadian life to find the Dominion government using public funds, propaganda and every other means to aid the scheme of the hierarchy.

Quebec is awakening

But it is all to no end. The French-Canadian is awakening and he finds his greatest handicap is an ignorance of the English language, so he is doing something about it. There are thousands of them in Toronto and they all speak the language of the city. We know many French-Canadian Protestants in Quebec who soon learned English, but still retained their racial traits, and they are satisfied with the rights of the French language as guaranteed in the B.N.A. Act. These must be carefully preserved, but the government should be brought to task for every violation of the law in regard to the extension of bilingualism, particularly when it aims to bolster the faith of one particular denomination. Canada is an English-speaking country and it will only begin to realize its promise when national unity will become a reality through the understanding resulting from the use of a common language from coast to coast.

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BILINGUALISM

Not Practical



"THE THEORY THAT A NEW LANGUAGE MEANS A NEW CULTURE IS NOT TRUE.

"THERE IS A LIFE'S STUDY IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ALONE FOR ANY MAN."

—Sir Gilbert Murray,

Former editor,
Encyclopaedia Britannica.

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LET US FACE the facts on the bilingual issue. Get away from cloying sentiment and political shenanigans and think of the future of this great country. The first important thing about Canada is that it is an English-speaking country. That is what our history and law show to be true. Remember German Chancellor Bismarck's remark that the greatest factor of the 19th century was the fact that Great Britain and the United States used the same language. And that remains probably the most potent force in the world politics today for when London and Washington speak there is no chance of misconception or ambiguity in the exchange and there is an understanding that can avoid hazards and lead to cooperation. That is where Canada's rightful stand is—right by the side of Britain and the U.S.A., speaking the same language and helping them to establish freedom and peace in the world.

The next fact is that this country is not only English-speaking, theoretically and legally, but it is so in practice as well. Traveling by train from Winnipeg recently we had a conversation with a Quebec University graduate, who holds a high position in the scholastic sphere in the Province. He was, of course, bilingual, and though he was well past middle-age, it was his first trip west. When we asked him what was the most striking impression he received in his journey, he replied at once: "This is an English-speaking country, not a bilingual one."

He stated that from the time he had crossed the border of Quebec into Ontario until that moment he had not heard a word of French spoken. He also stated, as though to emphasize his newly found truth, that even in Montreal he used his French so seldom that he was very "rusty" in using it. The French-Canadians in Quebec, he added, will before long be completely bilingual, or, in other words, they will all

be able to speak English which is evidently a necessity on this continent, he said.

Not practical here

The next fact that has to be faced is that bilingualism is not practical in Canada today. The English-speaking people have an economic struggle that leaves little time for sentimental side issues. Life to them is real, as it is earnest, and they find the acquisition of an adequate English vocabulary that can be used to advantage, a tough enough task. With 170,000,000 people just below the border, in the U.S.A., who are not bothered with a bilingual bogey, competing in trade and profession, these Canadians know that one means of proficiency lies in not having too many distractions, and in being able to speak the language common on both sides of the border fluently and well.

Besides, how can we ever hope to assimilate immigrants from Europe who speak neither English nor French? Are they expected to learn two new languages before they could be at ease with our way of life? Such an idea or plan would drive them across the border as soon as the quota requirements could be met. This question must be faced realistically and the new Canadians who are swarming into Toronto night schools to learn English know the answer.

It is often said in aid of bilingualism that the knowledge of another language gives a person another culture. Of all the arguments presented this seems to us to be the most fallacious. Ability to speak another language is achieved very easily by some people. Latins find it easy, Anglo-Saxons, well, not so easy, shall we say, but to think that this achievement automatically provides a person with a new culture is beyond reason. How can it be true when you can meet hundreds in Quebec who can speak fluently and deftly in both

French and English and yet on an educational basis, they are practically illiterate.

On this point Sir Gilbert Murray, former editor of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* and one of the greatest scholars in this and the last generations, left no doubt as to his opinion. The theory that a new language means a new culture is not true, he said. He had a working knowledge of some five of six languages and had found the claim to be without foundation. There is a life's study in the English language alone for any man, said Sir Gilbert.

Bilingualism divides

But the argument mostly used to justify bilingualism, namely, that it promotes national unity, is the most baseless of all. The truth is bilingualism divides, not unites, a country. The basis of a united people is understanding and that can come only when all can communicate freely with each other. Now this can be achieved in Canada by either of two ways. First, by all, including European immigrants, learning to speak both English and French, and secondly, by all being able to speak one common language. Common sense indicates that the dual language proposal is impractical, and that the solution lies in one language, English, being spoken in every corner of Canada. If this were so, it would not be long before many of the barriers that keep the French-Canadians in Quebec isolated from the rest of Canada would be removed, and a great step toward national unity would be gained. It is rapidly reaching this point for every year, more and more Quebec French are learning to speak English, even if only from economic necessity.

To bolster R.C. faith

Perhaps the most serious fact to be faced regarding bilingualism in Canada is that it is being pushed and propagated to help preserve